

Empowering specially-abled children with a magical touch

A mission that focuses on boosting self-confidence of specially-abled children by unleashing, recognising and sharpening their raw talents through scientific methods involving various artforms - all leading to their empowerment in multiple ways.



DIFFERENT ART CENTRE

differentartcentre.com



If you light a lamp for somebody,
it will also brighten your path.

Gautama Buddha

A mission with a magical spell, led by Gopinath Muthukad, a people's man

A Magician on a humanitarian mission

After setting several “firsts” and winning global recognitions in the field of magic, Gopinath Muthukad founded Different Art Centre for differently-abled children which became the starting point to an enlightening journey for humanity.

Because of his credibility and ability to communicate critical messages on child rights to many people, particularly mothers, caregivers and youth, he was conferred the status of **Celebrity UNICEF Supporter** to join the efforts of the UN agency in improving the condition and status of children in the state of Kerala. He is also the official Ambassador for the Kerala State commission for protection of child rights.

Passion to serve

Apart from several highly responsible social missions assigned by governments from time to time, his passion for delivering magical messages and sincere commitment to serve the welfare of society has transformed Muthukad into a motivator and an inspiring speaker.





"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

As a person who adores magic,
my attention was on how
magic could help
these innocent children.

No science has ever told how a child is born differently. There is still no complete cure to this condition - though early detection and proper interventions can help.

I am glad to present the world's first ever art centre exclusively for differently-abled children - Different Art Centre. The centre has changed the life of many and is sure to change many more in future. Our dream project, the Universal Empowerment Centre, is also in its final stages.

I have decided to dedicate the rest of my life for their welfare. Let me welcome you to explore what we do for these children at the Different Art Centre.

Gopinath Muthukad



Patrons & Directors

The concept was inspired and supported by respected and eminent personalities who have made their own impact in society.

It is then carried forward without losing its vigor, charm and fervor.



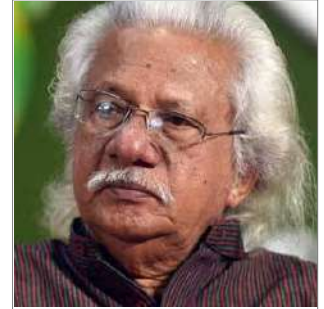
Founding Patron

Late Malayattoor Ramakrishnan
Prominent writer, cartoonist, lawyer and IAS officer.



Former Patron

Late O.N.V. Kurup
Renowned Malayalam Poet & Jnanpith Award Winner, Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan.



Present Patron

Adoor Gopalakrishnan
Acclaimed Film Director & Dada Saheb Phalke Award Winner, Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan.



Executive Director

Gopinath Muthukad

Magician & Motivational Speaker
Celebrity UNICEF Supporter
Brand ambassador for "Child-friendly Kerala"



Director

Mohan Kumar
Businessperson
Global Ambassador for the Academy of Magical Sciences



Director

Prahlad Acharya
Shadowgrapher and Ventriloquist



Milestones in the evolution

1996 Establishment of the Academy of Magical Sciences
The Academy of Magical Sciences was established with the basic objective of breaking superstitions and popularizing magic as an artform that is based on principles of science.

2014 Magic Planet established
Magic Planet, the world's first magic theme park, was built in 2014, to protect public oriented art forms and street performers.

2017 Spark to involve differently-abled children
Anuyatra (walking together) in conjunction with the Government of Kerala - to integrate differently-abled children into its line of programs.

Formation of MPower centre
A permanent performance platform, MPower centre, was formed in Nov 2017.

2019 Centre for differently-abled children set up
Aiming at exploring the artistic talents of differently-abled children and supported by the Kerala Social Security Mission of the Government of Kerala, Magic Academy succeeded in setting up the Different Art Centre.

DAC formally inaugurated
Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan formally inaugurated the Different Art Centre on 7 Nov 2019. 7 different venues for performing artforms were setup.

2020 SCIENTIA established
Under the guidance of researchers from the Western University of Health Sciences, California, an initiative to promote curiosity among differently-abled children on scientific subjects was established in the name of SCIENTIA.

Extra-mural talks - MIND
MIND series of extra-mural talks by eminent personalities for differently-abled children and their parents.

Charisma for mothers
Charisma program launched on 3 Dec 2020, International Day of Disabled Persons.

UEC - foundation stone laid
The Universal Empowerment Centre is envisaged to enhance the employability of differently-abled youth through tailored skill and capacity development trainings.

Online Events - COVID period
Started a series of online magic and talent show events under the name of Vismaya Saanthwanam. Re-opened on 1 Nov 2020.

Milestones in the evolution

2021

SCIENTIA laboratory opened

Health Minister of Kerala, K. K. Shailaja Teacher inaugurated the laboratory for SCIENTIA on 1 Jan 2021

Best Employer Award

Magic Planet has been chosen as the Best Employer for promoting differently-abled employees by Dept. of Social Justice, Govt. of Kerala in 2021

Assessment report released

Report on assessment of the children of DAC by ICCONS and CDC released in Feb 2021

DAC children lauded at National conference

In a national conference held online by the University of Kerala on 9 Mar, 2021, the differently-abled students from the Scientia program at Different Arts Centre, presented their thesis.

2022

Art Tower of UEC opens

Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala inaugurates the 'Art Tower' of the Universal Empowerment Centre, on 12 Jan 2022

Horticulture therapy introduced

Horticulture therapy project Blossom, with support from NABARD and Kerala Agricultural University launched on 23 Feb 2022

DAC children meets the President of India

Children from DAC did a performance in New Delhi, followed by a great opportunity to meet the honourable President of India, Droupadi Murmu on 27 Aug 2022 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

PRISM - integrated Rehabilitation and virtual reality Centre

The state-of-the-art therapy intervention centres inaugurated in Universal Empowerment centre on 10 Oct 2022.

Dedicated digital channel for the differently-abled - DAC Global launched

A channel exclusively dedicated for the differently-abled community was launched on 1 Nov 2022

Participation at the Science Congress

Ten children of Different Art Centre make a historic presentation during 34th Kerala Science Congress in Feb 2022

DAC children travels to perform in Singapore

In May 2022, children from the DAC flew to Singapore and performed different art forms at an event titled 'Empowering with Love'. The event was attended by many including Eric Chua, Senior official from Singapore.

Special theatres opened

Three theatres, Magic of Darkness, a stage for the visually challenged, Magic of Silence, a stage for the hearing challenged and Magic of Miracle, for the physically challenged, were unveiled on 01 Oct 2022.

Centres for music and drawing

SYMPHONIA and ARTERIA, the two centers for music and drawing, opened at the Universal Empowerment Centre (UEC) on 20 Oct 2022

Happiness Train Ride opened

A thrilling amusement ride around the UEC was inaugurated on 31 Oct 2022.

Magic Planet opens

Magic Planet, the world's first magic theme park was opened to the public in 2014. The luscious green campus spread over 1.5 acres of land holds several performance venues aimed to protect street performers and many street-arts that face complete extinction due to lack of platforms. Consequently, it became a rehabilitation hub for Indian street magicians, circus artists and other folk artists.

Magic Planet was inaugurated on 31 October 2014, on Magic Day, by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy with the laudable magical act of Padmasree Mohanlal in the presence of other ministers and people from different walks of life.



A museum of magic is born

Magic Planet - the museum of magic is a foresight of Gopinath Muthukad to hand down the elixir of magic to the young generation, and moreover to rehabilitate the Indian street magicians who carry on the true legacy of Indian magic.

A multitude of fascinating activities awaits visitors here. Be it the mesmerizing Circus Castle blended with acrobatic sensations, or 'Magic Gallery' at the History Museum with its rare memorabilia tracing the tale of magic and magicians from the middle ages to the 1950s, or the 'Fantasia Theatre' where mind-blowing illusions, music and theatre effects are displayed, Magic Planet will enthrall visitors beyond words.



Starting of a new journey

The differently-abled children who received special training in magic, became brand ambassadors of **Anuyatra** (Walking together), a campaign of the state government for persons with special needs. Anuyatra was launched by Mohammed Hamid Ansari, former Vice-President of India.

This paved the way for Magic Academy's journey towards an inclusive society and towards empowering differently-abled community to join the mainstream.

Inspired by the highly successful performance of the children, Magic Academy decided to establish a permanent performance platform for them, named as MPower Centre, which later evolved as Different Art Centre.



“

I congratulate Gopinath Muthukad and his team for the immense effort put in to explore the hidden talents of the differently-abled children. The harmoniously blended use of magic to bring out these inherent talents of the children was a creative way of telling the world that they are not differently-abled or disabled but specially abled and deserving to achieve wonders.

Mohammad Hamid Ansari
Former Vice-President of India



Different Art Centre opens in 2019

The formation of Different Art Centre (DAC) is the fruitful culmination of untiring, relentless efforts of many, and this became a milestone in the transformation of Kerala into a differently-abled-friendly state.

“Different Art Centre, founded by magician Gopinath Muthukad, is an exemplary model of a venue for catalysing the intellectual and mental progress of the differently-abled children.”, said **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**, while inaugurating DAC on 7 November 2019. He also said the government was proud to have such a world class facility aimed to uplift differently-abled kids.



Powerful mission with a vision

DAC's vision is to develop a world class art centre that provides training and performance opportunities for talented mentally challenged children. During this process, it will strive to enrich physical and mental development through various methods to empower these children to stand on their own feet and lead an independent life.

DAC's mission is to act as a window of opportunity in identifying, training and refining the basic talents of differently-abled children through various art forms. In this process, it works to:

Develop innovative approaches that will help the children to reach their fullest potential.

Create unique programs that improve the mental and physical health of these children.

Enable them to be the breadwinners of their family, thereby enabling them to lead a better life like others in society.

Encourage and ensure active participation of differently-abled children in various aspects of social life.



CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE WITHIN DIFFERENT ART CENTRE

Different Thought Centre

creates awareness to prevent disabilities in children from early stages.

The scenic **Camille Cascade** is for film-making, acting, cinematography and editing.

Beethoven Bungalow uses music as a therapeutic intervention for the children.

SCIENTIA - an initiative to promote curiosity on scientific subjects

Angelo's Arcade is meant for painting, creative arts and its exhibition.

Wonder Wings built in the model of a modern aircraft where the children present their works.

Universal Empowerment Centre

to enhance the employability, health and well-being of differently-abled youth.

Mpower Centre trains and develops their talents, provides life skills to enhance confidence and self-awareness.

Jaleo Mahal is dedicated to dance and related art forms.

The **India Fort** is a venue to exhibit dramatic art forms.



India Fort

The **India Fort** is a venue to exhibit dramatic art forms based on the themes unity and harmony. It acts as a national integration platform that will furnish a complete range of dramatic emotions from anger and aggression to joy and beauty.

The majestic, brick-red-coloured India Fort is inspired by the Red Fort in Delhi. The venue is aimed to admire the legacy of Indian Heritage.

India Fort was opened on 15 July 2019 by the Honorable Governor of Kerala, Justice (Retd) P. Sathasivam.



Jaleo Mahal

Jaleo Mahal is the venue for dance and related art forms. The centre aims to provide more opportunities for mentally challenged children who want to perform dance. Besides being a physical activity, dance incorporates emotional and cognitive social interactions, sensory stimulation, motor coordination and music. Jaleo Mahal displays works of architectural finesse that resembles ancient dance stages.

The centre was inaugurated on 09 September 2019 by Justice (Retd) B. Kemal Pasha and talented actress-dancer Lakshmi Gopalaswamy.



Wonder Wings

Wonder Wings for magical finesse is a creative stage for presentations. The centre is built in the model of an aircraft where the children proudly display a magical parade of their learned talents of the day.

The interior of this aircraft-modelled structure has seating arrangements just like in a traditional aeroplane. Wonder Wings is a special venue where audience gets seated as in an aeroplane while performances of the children are played with appropriate announcements.



Camille Cascade

The scenic Camille Cascade, with waterfall, rocks and greenery, is for those who want to try their hand at film-making, acting, cinematography, composing and editing. With its great audience involvement, Camille Cascade has been receiving much appreciation.

The centre was inaugurated on 15 October 2019 by veteran Film Director Kamal and actor Madhu.



Beethoven Bungalow

Music has a language of its own which has the power to hit the emotional nerve within us. Studies have proven that music has been successful as a therapeutic intervention for the children with physical and mental disabilities.

Beethoven Bungalow is the music venue in Different Art Centre, and is named in the memory of great musician Beethoven.

The centre was inaugurated on 02 August 2019 by legends of Indian music, writer P Sreekumaran Thampi, singer K S Chitra and music composer M Jayachandran. As of date in 2022, the music stage has witnessed numerous performances by the children along with various musicians and in front of thousands of people, including many celebrities.



Angelo's Arttree & Arcade

Below the canopy of a tamarind tree is **Angelo's Arttree** and an underground gallery, **Angelo's Arcade**, to exhibit the paintings and craft done by the children in DAC. Hundreds of handmade and canvas paintings, portraits and other artworks are displayed here. Art lovers can purchase the items, the money goes directly to the artist.

The colourful world of brushes and paints builds fine motor skills, boosts self-confidence and self-esteem and it hones problem solving skills and imagination.

Angelo's Arttree was inaugurated by Sculptor Kanayi Kunhiraman in the presence of Muralee Thummarakudy.





Making accessible and advanced learning spaces possible

With a great focus, education has always and undoubtedly been at the forefront of our activities at the Different Art Centre. DAC is determined to ensure quality education for differently-abled children by promoting accessible and advanced learning spaces for them, while involving family and community into the process.

With the lush green environment of the Magic Planet campus, DAC premises are made to ensure free movement space, safe access to water and sanitation facilities and having proper learning materials to suit the needs of the children.

DAC invests in the preparation and orientation of teachers that will address attitudes towards children with disabilities, and prepare/support their families to be encouraged to keep their children in school while keeping them informed about their children's potential. The education also includes a strong involvement from parents and community members. This will enable their smooth transition into the mainstream of the society, without being discriminated.

Apart from artistic lessons, the learning programs comprise of reading, writing, simple mathematics, language development, puzzles, sequences and attention through sound and behavioural coaching.





The Magic Planet in Trivandrum is located in a picturesque and lush green campus. Children get the opportunity to be with mother nature in its finest form while getting trained themselves.

Meeting the President of India

"It's true that this will brighten many of these children's lives and provide significant healing to their families and set a good example for society" - **Droupadi Murmu, honourable President of India.**

With the support of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, 25 children from DAC had the opportunity to meet the honourable President of India, Droupadi Murmu on 27 August 2022 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. She expressed her joy in seeing the children and appreciated the initiatives by DAC.



Children on a mission abroad

Children from DAC traveled in an aeroplane along with other passengers and performed different art forms at an event titled 'Empowering with Love' in Singapore. The two-hour-long performance was attended by a distinguished audience, including Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore.

The event succeeded in showcasing equal opportunities for children with disabilities to be part of cultural events in society and thereby boost their confidence and social skills. It also helped in raising awareness among the public about the rights of children with disabilities.



200 children. The journey continues.

DAC has grown in multiple ways. Apart from increased facilities, provisions for transformations, new technologies, improved campus, addition of Universal Empowerment Centre with numerous facilities and employment schemes for the children, the capacity also has increased to 200 children.

Second batch of students

R Bindu, Minister for Higher Education, Kerala, on 06 May 2022, officially welcomed the new batch of 100 special children.



Education is not a matter of getting facts and sowing them within brains, but an attitude of mind that you teach children to find out for themselves.

Under the guidance of researchers from Western University (WU) of Health Sciences, California, the children at the Different Art Centre got a hands-on start with scientific research activities.

Named as “Scientia”, the programme aims to promote curiosity amongst children on scientific subjects. Research works completed by the participating children are handed over to the WU researchers, who in turn would present them at appropriate international forums.

History created at the Science Congress

Ten children of Different Art Centre make a historic presentation during 34th Kerala Science Congress in Feb 2022

DAC students lauded at national conference

In a national conference held online by the University of Kerala in March, 2021, the differently-abled students from the Scientia program at Different Arts Centre, presented their thesis.

The presentation by the children of DAC on ‘Zero waste institutions for sustainable ecosystem: a concept note’ was immensely lauded by the experts.

DAC students excelled for winning research scholarship from Stem4

The SCIENTIA team has added two more feathers on their cap by fetching a research scholarship from STEM for Girls, a US-based organization.

The children also participated in various competitions organised by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board.

Inspirational visits

Visits by dignitaries and leaders become an impetus for boosting the happiness and confidence amongst the children.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan visited the Different Art Centre to celebrate the spirit of Christmas. He spent time with the children cheering them with great affection. The children fondly remember every moment of his visit to the campus.





Going the extra mile

Apart from the regular programmes, several extra-mural activities, upliftment programmes and charity initiatives are carried out at the Different Art Centre.



MIND (Magical Inspiration Needed for Differently-abled)

With an intention to motivate the children and take them to the mainstream without being discriminated, MIND conducts weekly motivational sessions led by experts in several specific fields to share and pass on their knowledge.

Since inception of this programme, the children and their parents have shown keen interest in interacting with guests and making discussions lively. The MIND series paved the way for boosting hope and positivity among the children and their parents especially during the COVID lockdown periods.



Inspira for enhanced learning

Knowing that it will be a difficult task for differently-abled children to learn through letters, a different educational program named as INSPIRA was introduced. This helps to acquire the basic functionalities of learning such as Reading, Writing, Simple Mathematics, Language Development, Simple Matching Exercises, Puzzle Exercises, Simple Sequences and Attention through sound as well as behavioural coaching.

The comprehensive educational program helps the children learn through multimedia and using digital devices.



HOPE (Heaven Of Peaceful Environment)

DAC's parent organisation, Magic Academy, as a socially committed entity, has always been concerned about the issues related to housing needs faced by the families of the children at DAC.

With a view to provide houses to them, the Magic Academy launched a project named, HOPE (Heaven Of Peaceful Environment). The first house under this project was officially handed over to one of the children by then Kerala Minister Kadakampally Surendran on 28 Aug 2020.



ENGAGING EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



A simple smile. That's the start of opening your heart and being compassionate to others.

Dalai Lama

Artiste Village

As a responsible organisation working for the betterment of the underprivileged sections of our society, The Academy of Magical Sciences has completed a housing project for economically disadvantaged artists under the initiative titled 'Artiste Village.' Sixteen houses have been built at Chanthavila in Kazhakootam to provide rehabilitation for street magicians, circus artistes and differently-abled artists who do not have a house, land or regular income.



A key objective of this project is to acknowledge the sacrifices made by these destitute artists, to provide them a satisfactory life, and to promote their exceptional talents among the coming generations without expecting anything in return. The houses in the Artiste Village are designed in a disability-friendly manner so as to provide rehabilitation for homeless differently-abled artists.



Quality, Health and Safety

Apart from helping the children in excelling their artistic and scientific talents, DAC focuses on the health of their body and mind too. The children undergo warm-up sessions and exercises on a daily basis. They are being taught cleanliness and hygiene too.

In addition, health and safety of the members are of utmost importance in DAC. The entire campus is constructed towards being friendly to differently-abled people. Also, there is enough staff deputed for this purpose throughout, to ensure that the children are safe in the campus in multiple ways.



Making our voice heard

DAC Global Channel launched

A channel exclusively for differently-abled community was launched by DAC on 1 Nov 2022.

The programmes in the channel are exclusively structured for the differently-abled community. All the programmes are designed to communicate authentic information related to the differently-abled to the outside world. Content of all programs are aimed to motivate this community and also to impart awareness on rights and health aspects, to their parents.



Empowerment through Employment opportunities

Despite progress in society, differently-abled people are underrepresented in the workplace. Effectively, they are being excluded from economic activities. The unfortunate reality is that many of them are offered fewer opportunities to actively participate in the economy.

DAC is actively building a database of job-seekers with disabilities, including their specific skills – presenting a strong pool from which disability-friendly employers can draw. On the other side, we also look out for signs that an organisation has a particularly positive approach towards recruiting people with disabilities.

Conducting events beyond borders

We aim to spread our voice beyond borders. At the same time, we want our children to see the world beyond borders. To effectuate these causes, we are keen to take our children to perform before an international audience. During the pandemic, we did online shows to reach many, but we aim to allow our children to travel and perform.

After having done thousands of performances at the campus, the children have started travelling abroad to perform. The travel and performance are aimed at spreading awareness in the society about the plight of differently-abled children and their families, finding means for empowering them boosting their self-confidence.

DAC Global was launched by Santosh George Kulangara, television producer, director, broadcaster, publisher, and traveler. The channel's logo was unveiled by popular film actress Navya Nair.

Engaging the mothers

CHARISMA - A platform for mothers of the children at DAC to explore and expand their interests and hobbies, while adding to their living.

The mothers engage in activities like tailoring, candle making, umbrella making, toothbrush making and several others. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has joined hands with DAC to support the skill development of the mothers. They also receive the full proceeds from the sale. These mothers no longer have the worry of keeping away from their children but can remain in the vicinity while working for self-sufficiency.

CHARISMA was inaugurated on 03 December 2020 by ADGP B. Sandhya in the presence of Film producer Suresh Kumar, Actress Menaka and KTDC Chairman M. Vijayakumar.



Making a livelihood, with skills, peace and comfort

Mothers feel relieved when near to their children for the whole day, while utilising their time on skills they never got a chance to use. What if that earns them a livelihood too!

The mothers at CHARISMA are busy with executing their skills in multiple works while their children are busy in their training programmes.



Helping hand during times of need and despair

With the support from benefactors, DAC was able to provide needy families with food kits during the lockdown period, when the breadwinners were unable to work and earn. When they were struggling to make both ends meet, these packets gave the poor families a magical relief.

Many needy families benefited from these food packets that contained essential items needed for almost a week.



Miraculous performance improvement in the children

The report on the assessment of the children of Different Arts Centre (DAC), prepared by Institute of Communicative and Cognitive Neuro Science (ICCONS) and Child Development Centre (CDC) was handed over to Minister of Health and Social Justice, K. K. Shailaja by the Chairman of K- DISC (Kerala - Development and Innovation Strategic Council), Dr. K. M. Abraham on 18 February 2021.

Minister K. K. Shylaja stated that the achievement by DAC is indeed an extraordinary feat and an example for the rest of the world. DAC has indeed brought a revolutionary change in the area of education and support among the differently-abled.

The report underlines that there is remarkable change in both physical as well as mental health of the children at DAC especially when it comes to their IQ, EQ, psycho motor domain, and behavioural aspects.



Horticulture therapy

With the inherent positive changes that it can bring, an innovative horticulture therapy was inducted into the DAC curriculum. The horticulture therapy was inaugurated on 28 Oct 2022 by V. Muraleedharan, Union Minister of State for External Affairs. The inaugural function was presided by V N Vasavan, Minister for Culture, Govt. of Kerala.

The flower garden, vegetable garden, sensory garden, fruits garden & medicine plants garden are vital sections of the newly introduced therapy model.



Learning in nature

Embracing nature is an enriching way to bring real life and learning together. Nature promotes learning by improving learners' attention, levels of stress, self-discipline, interest and enjoyment in learning, and physical activity and fitness.

It was with these ideas in mind, DAC introduced Horticulture Therapy into the scheme. Named as "Blossom" and supported by NABARD and Kerala Agriculture University, the project was inaugurated by P. Prasad, Minister for Agriculture, Kerala in February 2022.

A part of the campus has been converted to grow vegetables, flowering plants - all planted and taken care by the children at the centre. The beautiful landscape also has a artistic pathway that cuts across and makes it delightful and more appealing along side the sprouting vegetables, colorful flowers and chirpy birds.





Historic win at the Science Congress

Adding a golden leaf in history, a group of 10 differently-abled children from the SCIENTIA team of DAC presented scientific posters on their research findings during the 34th Kerala Science Congress.

It's for the first time that differently-abled children were given an opportunity to present scientific presentation in a major science confluence where seasoned scientists, researchers, and academicians handle the sessions.

Previously the children of SCIENTIA had presented their papers and won accolades during online conferences organized by various departments of the Kerala University and the Children's Biodiversity Congress.

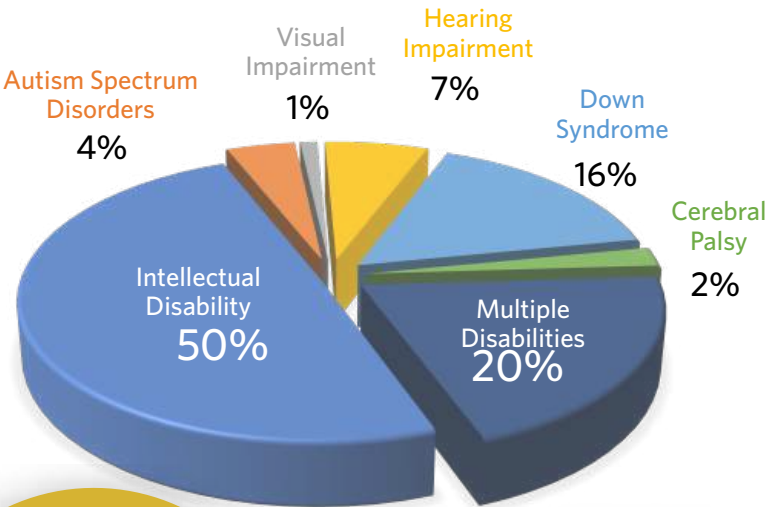


Regular Assessments

Assessing disabilities in children with sufficient detail to detect even minor changes is essential before introducing them to any new intervention strategies. The newly recruited differently-abled children undergo a detailed assessment before enrolling. They were again assessed after one month and one year of enrollment in order to understand the effect of the program. Some of the main consolidated observations are shown here.

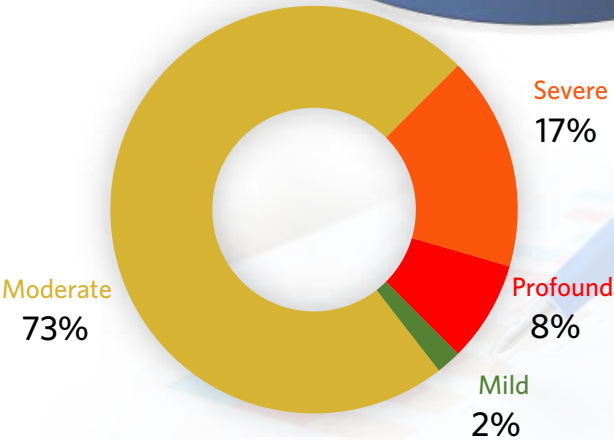
Type of disabilities amongst the children

Type of disability	Nos	Share (%)
Intellectual Disability	46	49.50
Autism Spectrum Disorders	4	4.30
Visual Impairment	1	1.08
Hearing Impairment	6	6.45
Down Syndrome	15	16.10
Cerebral Palsy	2	2.15
Multiple disabilities	19	20.40
Total	101	100%



Severity of disability

Level	Share
Mild	2%
Moderate	73%
Severe	17%
Profound	8%



Assessment entities and associated details

Institute for Communicative and Cognitive Neurosciences (ICCONS) (An autonomous Institute under Govt. of Kerala). An assessment was conducted as part of "YIP for the Differentially Abled Children" - A Collaborative Project of K-DISC (KSSM, ICCONS, CDC, NIPMR & NISH) with Different Arts Center (Academy of Magical Sciences) has been undertaken to attain the Sustainable Developmental Goals (adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015). Tool used: Vineland Adaptive Behavior scale, 2nd edition (Vineland II) is an individually administered measure of "adaptive behavior" for ages birth through 90. Another assessment was done by Child Development Centre (CDC), Kerala is entrusted to organize psycho-social and health assessment of all the participants of the Program. CDC assessed impact of the program on the bio-psycho-social domains of selected children. Latest report period: February 2021.

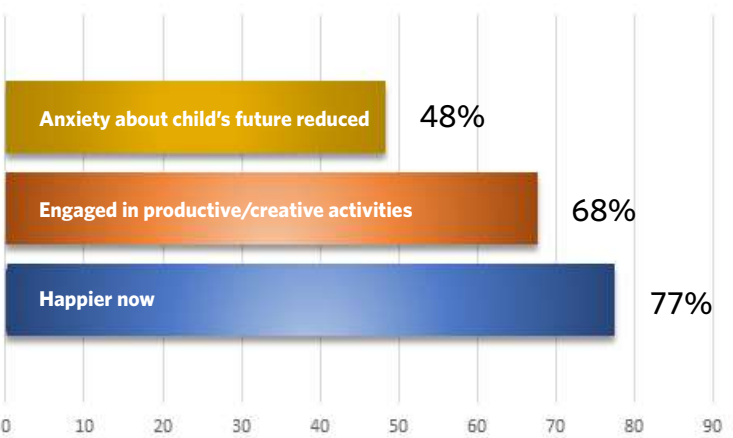
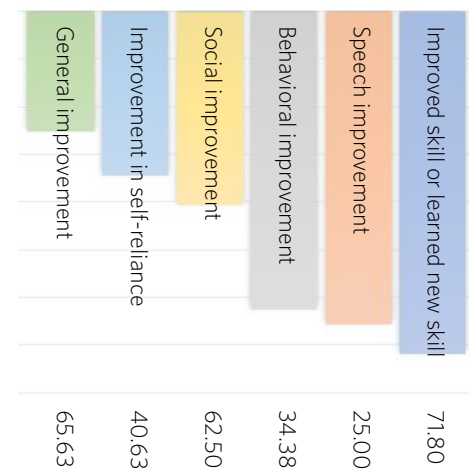
Some vital observations

Changes in parents after enrolling child at DAC Self-reported

Changes	%
Happier now	77.41
Engaged in productive/creative activities	67.74
Anxiety about child's future reduced	48.38

Changes in participants as perceived by parents

Variable	%
Improved skill or learned new skill	71.80
Speech improvement	25.00
Behavioral improvement	34.38
Social improvement	62.50
Improvement in self-reliance	40.63
General improvement	65.63








Improvements in self-reliance and general changes in children as reported by parents



Behavioral adaptation and handling of stress levels

Comparison of rate of change in the domain of adaptive behavior and mal-adaptive behavior from Start Phase to End Phase of assessment

Domain		Share			
		Improved	Decline	Retained	
Communication		18.75	12.50	68.75	
Daily Living Skills		25.00	25.00	50.00	
Socialization		15.62	18.75	65.00	
Motor Skills		31.25	18.75	50.00	
Adaptive behavior composite level		9.37	9.37	81.25	
Maladaptive behavior index level		15.62	18.75	65.00	
 Positive attribute					

We will be making year to year comparison for every attribute. This phased performance assessments will give clear indication of the impact of the training programmes on the children.

Perceived Stress Levels (PSQ) of participants during pre and post assessment

The stress levels of the participants had significantly lessened during their year at DAC (t 4.01, p<0.001). They expressed more joy, and less worries in the post-intervention assessment.

Perceived stress levels	Pre-assessment (N=32)		Post-assessment (N=32)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Perceived Stress - Worries	21	6.95	6.19	1.72
Perceived Stress - Tension	6.95	4.12	5.27	1.22
Perceived Stress - Lack of Joy	6.67	2.63	7.69	1.76
Perceived Stress - Demands	10.95	3.75	7.46	1.98
Total Perceived Stress Score	34.1	8.14	26.62	4.97

Notes on this finding

Perceived stress levels of only 70 participants were assessed during initial level of assessment, as a few children were difficult to be assessed.



The mean PSQ score was 30.31 with a standard deviation of 15.51.



Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Facing a new world post COVID-19

Vismaya Saanthwanam (The Magic of Benevolence) – series of online talent shows conducted for global viewers to promote awareness on the plight of the differently-abled children.



The children at DAC used to get an opportunity to perform a variety of art in front of the public. The applause and appreciation that they used to receive from people greatly contributed to their intellectual and emotional growth. However, the COVID pandemic has resulted in a drop in visitors and live performances.

Consequently, DAC decided to conduct the shows at the venue in Trivandrum and telecast them through online platforms for audiences across the globe. This special talent show series named as Vismaya Saanthwanam (**The Magic of benevolence**) and **Magic beyond borders**, is led by Gopinath Muthukad and the children from Different Art Centre.

Several shows in the series have already been conducted for the Americas, Middle East and Asia Pacific. While adjusting to the post COVID “new normal” life, the online events made the children realise that they had a global audience.

There has been requests from several corporate groups for joining our mission and inviting the children at DAC to perform for their groups and also handhold the children through efforts that can contribute to improvements in their lives.





Educate, Enlighten, Evolve, Empower

Dream project for 2022

differently-abled persons find it very difficult to be accepted as active and functional members of the society. Employment is a key step towards their sustainable empowerment, because it provides a sense of belonging, importance and gradually increasing independence. Being able to work and earn income is an effective way of minimising social exclusion and poverty.

However, the main obstacles in achieving employment are widespread societal bias, negative circumstances and physical limitations.

While our efforts for skill development and better education for the differently-abled youth started producing positive results, we could identify the substantial need for empowering them into income generating jobs. This became the sole reason for the evolution of a concept like Universal Empowerment Centre. The concept is first of its kind in India – probably even globally.

Objectives

- Increased self-sufficiency to work
- Enhanced mainstreaming into society
- Public awareness-raising
- Electronic roster to increase opportunities

Uniqueness

The concept of establishing such an ambient environment to differently-abled children is first of its kind in India.

Highlights

1. Therapy Centre
2. Different Sports Centre
3. Performance Theatres (3)
4. Grand Theatre
5. Arteria
6. Symphonia
7. Scientia
8. Mom Centre
9. Tolka Tower
10. Fitness Centre

Coverage Area

43,966 sq.ft

Location

Located in a picturesque location, within the Kinfra Park in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Current position

Q4-2022

More information:

differentartcentre.com/uec

Universal Empowerment Centre (UEC)

Vision: To develop a world class centre that provides comprehensive training and performance opportunities for persons with disabilities. During this process, it will strive to enrich physical and mental development through various methods to empower for self-reliance.

Mission: To act as a window of opportunity in identifying, training and refining the talents of persons with disabilities through art, sports and various other activities.



A pathway to the UEC compound was decorated with paintings by tens of artists who volunteered to do so.

differentartcentre.com/uec

Multiple facilities open at UEC

Art Tower opened

Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala inaugurated the 'Art Tower' of the Universal Empowerment Centre, on 12 January 2022

Sports facility ready



Full fledged Sporting turf is ready for use at the UEC

Music and painting centre open



SYMPHONIA for live musical performances and ARTERIA for live artistic paintings were also opened in UEC in Oct 2022.

differentartcentre.com/uec

Prism integrated Rehabilitation and virtual reality Centre



State-of-the-art Therapy intervention centres were opened in the UEC.

They consist of:

- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Department of audio and Speech language pathology
- ▶ Speech therapy
- ▶ Department of physiotherapy
- ▶ Virtual Reality therapy
- ▶ Test and assessments centre
- ▶ Dental Clinic

Special theatres opened



Three theatres - Magic of Darkness, a stage for the visually challenged, Magic of Silence, a stage for the hearing challenged and Magic of Miracle, for the physically challenged were unveiled in Oct 2022.

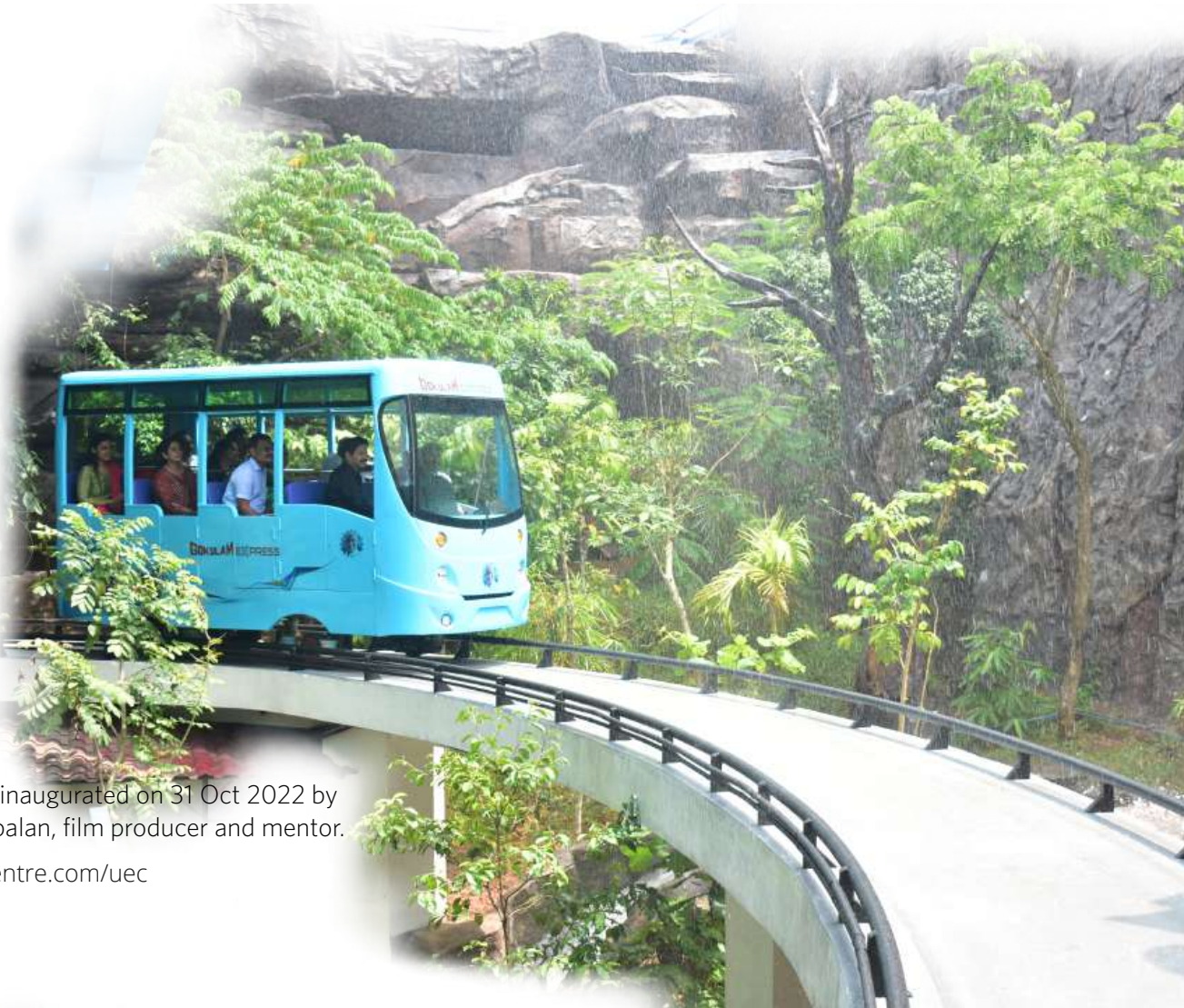
They were opened by Tiffany Brar, founder of Jyothirgamaya & social activist, Abhinaya Anand, renowned South Indian actress, who has challenges with hearing and speaking, Krithi Parek, a magician known as India's first test tube baby respectively.

Differently-abled people are not looking for your sympathy. What they want is a community that understands them.

Dr. Syam Prasad, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Central University of Kerala

Happiness ride at the UEC

A thrilling amusement ride around the UEC which also helps to overcome various phobias of the differently-abled and also to boost their self-confidence.



The ride was inaugurated on 31 Oct 2022 by Gokulam Gopalan, film producer and mentor.
differentartcentre.com/uec

What they said

Compliments flatter, but words from great personalities and influencers are vital elements of encouragement that fuel our courage to perform better. Glad to see the international outlook here.



In combination with the Different Art Center (DAC), Gopinath Muthukad, is providing unprecedented opportunities to train people with disabilities to lead fulfilling and productive lives – as the rule rather than the exception.

Congratulations on the opening of the Universal Empowerment Center (UEC) which aims to empower them in multiple ways.

Stephen Shore
Clinical Associate Professor,
The School of Education,
Adelphi University



Since the setting up of the Different Art Centre, they have done good work in empowering children with disabilities through education in various art forms such as music, dance and drama. Children have shown an improvement in psychomotor, social and cognitive skills. I would like to thank the students and teachers of the Different Art Centre.

Eric Chua
Senior Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Culture, Community
and Youth & Ministry of Social
and Family Development
Singapore



The Different Art Centre is an example of entertainment with compassion and social commitment.

Gopinath Muthukad's social initiatives indicate his commitment to the society and his dedication to these differently-abled children. I wish all the success to the entire team.

Dr. Amira Abdul Mohsin Al Raidan
Director for Health Education
Sultanate of Oman

What they said

Those good words from our local leaders and personalities inspire us on performing on ground.



I congratulate the people behind The Different Art Centre. The journey was unbelievable. They show us the beauty of child creativity through magic and other art forms. I offer all my support for the team of Different Art Centre. The centre, after months of its operation, has resulted in improvements in the IQ levels of these children which is really adorable.

Justice (Retd) P Sathasivam
Former Chief Justice of India &
Governor of Kerala



We can imagine how much benefit these children get from Different Art Centre offering a stage for a variety of art forms.

This is a unique example of how an art centre can make this much changes in the life of differently-abled children.

May the light of hope spread to many more.

Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister of Kerala



It will be the first ever initiative in the world that stands only for differently-abled children. It helps them to sharpen their skills enjoying their favourite art and in addition also helps them to support their families. I wish every success to Gopinath Muthukad and his team of special children.

Mohanlal
National Award winning
renowned actor

What they said

Nationals of international stature came forward to recognise our efforts. This is a delightful moment for us when such global citizens share an outlook that praises our works.



Gopinath Muthukad has proven that he can do real magic with human hearts, which he has done in DAC. He has given great opportunity to the differently-abled people to grow, and I am touched by what the centre is doing today.

I am so proud that DAC is in my constituency – he deserves all support.

Shashi Tharoor
Former international civil servant, diplomat and politician, writer and Member of Indian Parliament since 2009



The government has brought laws that are remarkable but these are not enough. We have to create a culture of respect, dignity, values and inclusion.

All praises to the great work accomplished by all the team members at DAC. The children deserves special praise and so as the tutors. My respect goes to Gopinath Muthukad for making all of these happen.

Kailash Satyarthi
Children's rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize (2014) laureate



The Different Art Centre is a unique example for how art can make changes in the life of special children.

The centre is a proof of social commitment of Gopinath Muthukad and how his magic changes the life of these special children. The centre's vision is special and I wish all the best wishes for the team.

Muralee Thummarakudy
Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction UN Environment Programme

Ethics Committee

We have an institutional ethics committee comprising of distinguished personalities from fields of innovation, research, social justice and medical research.

Members of our Ethics Committee

Dr. Mini S

Chairperson

Dr. Nisha V M

Member Secretary

Dr. Finosh G Thankam

Basic Medical Scientist

Dr. Sunandha Kumari L T

Clinician

Fr. (Dr.) Vincent Pereppadan Poullose

Social Scientist

Mr. Hariraj M R

Legal Expert

Mr. Sivakumar K P

Layperson

Mr. Raibin Raphy

Member

Dr. Joby Joseph

Scientific Scholar

Advisory Board

We have an operational advisory board with dedicated specialists in various streams and from across the world. In addition to involvement in initiatives on social causes, they have proven excellence in their respective fields of activity.

Members of the Advisory Board

Babu Rajendran

General Secretary, Indian Social Club,
Sultanate of Oman

Chandrasenan Mithirmala

DAC-Management, Kerala, India

Dr. Finosh G Thankam, PhD.

Academician / Scientist, California, USA

Gopinath Muthukad

DAC-Management, Kerala, India &
Celebrity UNICEF Advocate

Jayakumar Narayanan

Businessperson, Singapore

Mohan Kumar

Businessperson, Singapore

Paul Karukappallil

Businessperson, New York, USA

Prahlad Acharya

Shadowgrapher and Ventriloquist
Mangalore, India

Raibin Raphy

Technologist, Portland, USA

Shyla Thomas

Writer / Businessperson, Kerala, India

Tomy Varghese

Engineer Entrepreneur, Dubai, UAE

Ullas Kumar

Technology Consultant, Singapore

Fr. Vincent Pereppadan

Jesuit priest and Educational researcher



About our Founder

We would not have done this without the great inspiration from a leader like Gopinath Muthukad.

Positions held

Executive Director, The Academy of Magical Sciences

Founder, Magic Planet & the Different Art Centre

Celebrity UNICEF advocate

Ambassador for Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

He is a recipient of the below coveted awards

Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academi Award 1995

Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academi Fellowship 2017

First ever Kerala Sree Award 2022

Recognition beyond borders

Gopinath Muthukad set several firsts and won national and global recognitions including the coveted Merlin Award for Magicians. Because of his credibility and ability to communicate critical messages on child rights to masses, he was conferred the status of Celebrity UNICEF Supporter to join the efforts of the UN agency in improving condition of children in the state of Kerala. The philanthropic tasks he undertook made him amongst the finalists for Leader of the 21st Century by San Francisco University in 2019.

A motivational speaker, he is a widely accepted personality among children and the elderly. A good orator and author of several books, he has not failed to influence his audience through his magical outlook. Supporting the cause of national integration, he travelled across the length and breadth of India, performing magic.

Certificate of Excellence from Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Special recognition for the outstanding contribution towards facilitating children with mental and intellectual challenges to integrate into social main stream and become contributing members of society.





Don't limit your challenges.
Challenge your limits.

We make a living by what we get,
we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill



DIFFERENT ART CENTRE
differentartcentre.com

A mission that focuses on boosting self-confidence of specially-abled children by unleashing, recognising and sharpening their raw talents through scientific methods involving various artforms. Different Art Centre is backed by quality, innovation and a strong commitment.



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